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SENATE BILL 2839

By Dixon

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 3, Part 5; Title 43 and Title 68, Chapters 201-221, and to enact the "Biobased Products: Effects on Environment and Conservation Act of 2000".

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Biobased Products: Effects on Environment and Conservation Act of 2000".

SECTION 2. The general assembly finds that biobased products reduce environmental emissions of harmful pollutants, decrease greenhouse gas emissions, and are biodegradable and therefore do not take up landfill space. There is hereby created a competitive grants program administered by the department of environment and conservation to solicit projects that develop data concerning the effects of biobased products on the environment.

SECTION 3. The purpose of this competitive grants program is to develop a variety of projects to test the environmental effects of biobased products, disseminate data concerning biobased products and the environment, and to develop environmental guidelines concerning biobased products..

SECTION 4. To effectuate the purposes of this act, the department of environment and conservation shall develop application procedures and offer competitive grants at the discretion, and under the supervision, of the commissioner.

SECTION 5. Funds appropriated for this competitive grant program shall be utilized for projects to include, but not be limited to, the development of dissemination tools such as websites, CD-ROMs, conferences or other information resources; the development of environmental data and impact studies; development of hands-on demonstration and field trips; and other similar projects. Grants shall be available to private businesses, research institutions, universities and non-profit organizations operating with their base of operations in Tennessee. Grants shall be available through a competitive selection process.

SECTION 6. The competitive grant program shall be structured in such a way so as not to require an expenditure in any fiscal year in which this program is in operation to exceed one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000).

SECTION 7. No later than July 1, 2001, and at two-year intervals thereafter, the department of economic and community development shall report to the general assembly relative to the progress of the competitive grant program.

SECTION 8. The commissioner of economic and community development is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 9. The competitive grants program created by this act shall cease to exist on July 1, 2005.

SECTION 10. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.